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FOR J. D. MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS

1. SUMMARY - PLANNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED OPIUM POPPY CROP LOCATION SYSTEMS (REMOTE SENSING) IN THE MEXICAN ERADICATION PROGRAM HAS PROGRESSED TO THE POINT THAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN MEXICO SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THESE INCLUDE TWO TYPES OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS THAT SHOULD BE FLOWN BEFORE THE END OF THE SPRING POPPY GROWING PERIOD. ADDITIONALLY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOM AG'S OFFICE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE ROLE THAT THE GOM WILL TAKE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEMS. WE PROPOSE THAT THE
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DEPUTY ADVISER, JOSEPH H. LINNEMANN, AND THE NASA PROJECT DIRECTOR, WAYNE MOONEYHAN, DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT DURING A VISIT TO THE EMBASSY, FEBRUARY 20-23. END SUMMARY

2. THE ELECTRO-OPTICAL SCANNING SYSTEM, AT ITS PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL IN

THE MEXICAN PROGRAM IN EARLY 1980. AN INTERIM ELECTRO-OPTICAL SCANNING SYSTEM IS BEING DEVELOPED THAT CAN BE OPERATIONAL FOR THE 1978 FALL ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. ITS TECHNICAL APPROACH WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE LATER ADVANCED

SYSTEM, BUT IT WILL BE LIMITED IN ITS TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC APPLICATION. IT WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE DATA THAT WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LATER SYSTEM AND WILL PROVIDE A TRAINING MODE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEXICAN CAPABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE FINAL SYSTEM.

3. IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO PROCEED QUICKLY WITH SEVERAL STEPS OF THE PROJECT TO GAIN CERTAIN TYPES OF DATA FROM THE AIR AND ON THE GROUND. THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE END OF THE SPRING POPPY GROWING SEASON IN LATE FEBRUARY. THE DATA TO BE GATHERED IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE COMPLEMENTARY MAPPING PROJECT.

4. TEST MISSION REQUIREMENTS - THE EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE GOM TO FLY A NASA E18 BEECH AIRCRAFT WITH FIVE CHANNEL MULTISPECTRAL CAMERA AND A ZEISS MAPPING CAMERA OVER SELECTED POPPY FIELDS NEAR CULIACAN. THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE STAGED AT TUCSON, ARIZONA, AND WOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO LAND IN MEXICO. THE CONTINGENCY BASE FOR EMERGENCY RECOVERY OR
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REFUELING WOULD BE HERMOSILLO. THE DATA WOULD BE PROCESSED AT NASA LABORATORY, SLIDELL, LOUISIANA. A GOM OBSERVER FOR THE FLIGHTS AND DATA PROCESSING IS REQUESTED. ALL DATA CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOM. FOUR FLIGHTS WILL BE REQUIRED. THE PURPOSE IS TO CONFIRM SPECTRAL WAVELENGTHS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE ADVANCED DETECTION SYSTEM AND WILL ELIMINATE AN EARLIER PROPOSED 60-DAY STUDY REQUIREMENT AS WELL AS REDUCE TOTAL COST.

5. HIGH ALTITUDE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY -- AN ADDITIONAL PROPOSED MISSION WOULD EMPLOY A NASA (U-2) HIGH ALTITUDE AIRCRAFT THAT WOULD ACQUIRE CONTIGUOUS BLACK AND WHITE, AND COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE PRIMARY ERADICATION AREA NEAR CULIACAN. THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE STAGED AT TUCSON, ARIZONA, OR ELLINGTON AFB, TEXAS. TWO FLIGHTS REQUIRED AND MUST BE CONDUCTED PRIOR TO THE E 18 TEST MISSION IN AREA. MEXICAN GROUND OBSERVER FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS AND DATA HANDLING INVITED AND RECOMMENDED. AERIAL PHOTOS WOULD BE PROCESSED AT AMES RESEARCH CENTER AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. ITS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO PROVIDE A PHOTO BASE FOR NAVIGATION DURING E 18 TEST FLIGHT AND LATER

INTERIM SYSTEM OPERATION, CONTROL POINTS FOR RECTIFICATION OF INTERIM SYSTEM DATA AND FOR LOCATING TEST FIELDS.

6. INTERIM SYSTEM DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING - WE

PROPOSE THAT AN AIRCRAFT FOR DATA ACQUISITION FOR THE INTERIM SYSTEM BE LEASED. THE US AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS WOULD BE STAGED AT CULIACAN WITH MEXICAN OBSERVER. A POSSIBLE OPTION EXISTS FOR A MEXICAN CREW. DATA PROCESSING WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN MEXICO CITY. THIS PLAN ASSUMES THE GOM WOULD FURNISH APPROPRIATE AIR-CONDITIONED FACILITY TO HOUSE APPROPRIATE MINI-COMPUTER DATA CENTER AND OPERATORS IN MEXICO CITY. SCHEDULE AND DETAILS
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WILL BE DISCUSSED BY MR. MOONEYHAN DURING PROPOSED VISIT.

7. ADVANCED SYSTEM DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING - THE AIRCRAFT REQUIRED FOR DATA ACQUISITION FOR THE ADVANCED SYSTEM SHOULD BE A HIGH ALTITUDE JET UNDER MEXICAN REGISTRY OPERATED BY A MEXICAN CREW AND STAGED OUT OF MEXICO CITY. DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE LOCATED IN APPROPRIATE AIR-CONDITIONED FACILITY IN MEXICO CITY WITH MEXICAN PERSONNEL OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES TRAINING OF MEXICAN PERSONNEL. TIMING AND SCHEDULING DETAILS TO BE DISCUSSED.

8. A SEPTEL WILL PROVIDE SPECIFICATIONS NEEDED TO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR FLIGHTS DESCRIBED IN PARAS 4 AND 5. PROPOSE EMBASSY ADVISE GOM AG OF THESE PLANS AND FACILITATE RAPID APPROVAL OF FLIGHT AUTHORIZATIONS.
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